# **Talking Points** for Clergy



980-314-9400 Option 3

#### **Benefits of the COVID-19 Vaccine**

## The COVID-19 vaccine will help us get back to the people and places we love

COVID-19 vaccination will be an important tool to help stop the pandemic.

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least 6 feet away from others, avoid gatherings, and wash your hands often.

Vaccination will help protect you from getting COVID-19.

All COVID-19 vaccines available in the United States have been shown to be highly effective at preventing COVID-19 by creating an antibody response without sickness. Getting vaccinated may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Depending on the specific vaccine you get, a second shot 3-4 weeks after your first shot is needed to get the most protection the vaccine has to offer against this serious disease.

The safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority.

The U.S. vaccine safety system ensures that all vaccines are as safe as possible. More than 70,000 people participated in clinical trials for two vaccines to determine safety and effectiveness. To date, the vaccines are nearly 95% effective in preventing COVID-19 with no safety concerns.

Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) is making recommendations for who should be offered COVID-19 vaccine first when supplies are limited.

To guide decisions about how to distribute limited initial supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, the CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices have published recommendations for which groups should be vaccinated first.

Due to limited availability, the vaccine is being rolled out in 5 groups. As supplies increase, more groups will be eligible to make an appointment or join the waitlist.

## COVID-19 VACCINE



### **Vaccination Groups**

The vaccine is being rolled out in five groups as it becomes available.



If you are eligible for the vaccine, you may schedule an appointment or join the waitlist for future opportunities.

#### Where to Get Vaccinated

Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH), Atrium Health, and Novant Health are offering vaccines to eligible patients by appointment. Appointment slots are limited by vaccine supply. Below are instructions for setting up appointments for your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Please note: Appointments for vaccines are limited to current active groups. Stay up to date at: mecknc.gov/COVID-19.







If you are a resident of Mecklenburg County:

Two options for scheduling your vaccine

- 1. Visit mecknc.gov/COVID-19 or StarMed.Care. Please read the appointment instructions carefully.
- 2. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 980-314-9400 and select Option 3 for scheduling assistance.

If you are an Atrium Patient:

Two options for scheduling your vaccine

- 1.Visit AtriumHealth.org/COVID-19Vaccine for the latest mass vaccination event, scheduling, and available appointment times.
- 2. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 704-468-8888 for scheduling assistance.

If you are a Novant Patient:

Two options for scheduling your vaccine

- 1. Visit GetVaccinated.org for information on appointment availability and how to schedule through MyChart.
- 2. If you do not have access to the internet, please call your primary care provider or 855-NH-VAC-4U (855-648-2248) for scheduling assistance. All others are encouraged to sign-up for MyChart at MyNovant.org

Mecklenburg County residents who need assistance with transportation to vaccine appointments, should contact the Mecklenburg Transportation System at: 980-314-7600.

Stay up to date about vaccine availability and waitlist opportunities at:

www.MeckNC.gov/COVID-19

